

REMARKS

Claim 4 is amended to broaden its definitions of the annular metal fitting and the electric-field stress control layer. Claim 4 as amended is considered allowable over the prior art of record for the same reasons advanced in applicants' most recent response filed May 12, 2008.

Patentability of Amended Claim 4 over Varreng

The "stress release device" (7, 17) of Varreng, as indicated by the cross-hatching in the drawings, is an elastomer, not a hard insulation sleeve as recited by amended claim 4 (also see claim 22). Further, The "stress relief device" (7, 17) of Varreng has no port for receiving a stress cone on the terminal end of a cable, as recited by claim 4 (also see new claim 20).

Further, in Varreng the "voltage stress relief device 7 is installed on the prepared cable end," quoting from column 1, lines 61 and 62, of Varreng. That structure is in contrast to applicants' claimed integral structure which is a prefabricated connection designed to receive insertion of a stress cone of a cable terminal.

Still further, Varreng discloses no metal fitting embedded in the "voltage stress relief device" (7, 17) which, again, is an elastomer, not as a "hard insulation sleeve".

The Patentability of Amended Claim 4 Over Quaggia

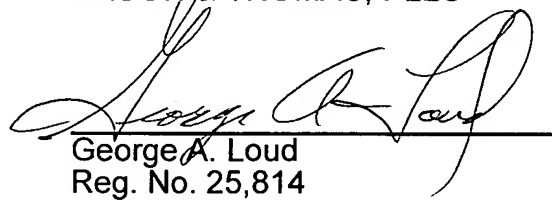
Quaggia neither discloses nor suggests a receiving port in an end of the "insulating body 11" as recited by amended claim 4. Further, Quaggia, in [0101] describes the "covering field control element 13" as being "in contact with the upper edge 15 of the conductive coating 12." As seen in Fig. 2 of Quaggia, the upper edge of the conductive coating 15 is between the "deflecting cone 26" and the "insulating body 11", not at an interface between 11 and 14, as would be required to meet amended claim 4.

The field control deflecting body 26 and the conductive coating 12 of Quaggia seem to be made of a semiconductive rubber (or metal in Fig. 4) so as to function as an earth shield, similar to the function of electric-field mitigation provided by the annular metal fitting in the present invention. In contrast, the present invention provides an

electric-field stress-control layer in addition to an earth shield with the objective of solving the prior art problem wherein a thicker insulating sleeve has been provided for higher voltages, thereby increasing the weight of the device. The structure disclosed by Quaggia provides no solution to that problem.

In conclusion, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider the patentability of claim 4 as amended.

Respectfully submitted,
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October 23, 2008
Date

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